

Message Text

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UNCLAS GEORGETOWN 1730

FOR IOR/M

GEORGETOWN, GUYANA, SEPTEMBER 26--GOVT OWNED DAILY CHRONICLE
EDITORIAL SEPTEMBER 26 TIES PRESIDENT'S AND SECSTATE'S UN SPEECHES
TO BAUXITE LEVY ON REYNOLD'S GUYANA MINES WHICH WAS PASSED UNANI-
MOUSLY IN PARLIAMENT SEPTEMBER 25. TITLED "GIVE US A CHANCE TO LIVE"
EDITORIAL SAYS:

"UNITED STATES PRESIDENT FORD HAS WARNED THAT ANY ATTEMPT TO USE
A SINGLE COMMODITY FOR POLITICAL ENDS INEVITABLY WOULD TEMPT OTHERS
TO USE THEIR COMMODITIES FOR THEIR OWN PURPOSES.

"HIS WARNING CAME IN AN ADDRESS TO THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL
ASSEMBLY AND HE COULD HARDLY HAVE CHOSEN A MORE SIGNIFICANT FORUM.

"WE ADMIRE PRESIDENT FORD'S CANDOUR REALISING THAT AS HE HAS
SAID 'THE GLUE OF TRUTH IS WHAT KEEPS DEMOCRACIES AND FRIENDS
TOGETHER'

"WE DOUBT THAT HE HAS HEARD OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THIS LITTLE
"BACK-WATER" COUNTRY CALLED GUYANA AND EVEN LESS ABOUT ITS
DETERMINATION TO OWN AND CONTROL OUR OWN RESOURCES.

"BUT COMING AS HIS STATEMENT DOES IN THE MIDST OF OUR PLANS
TO IMPOSE A BAUXITE LEVY, WE THINK THAT THIS AS GOOD A TIME AS
ANY TO DAB IN A LITTLE GLUE OF TRUTH ON OUR OWN.

"FIRST OF ALL WE SUPPORT THE ARABS' DETERMINATION TO GET A
FAIR SHARE FOR THEIR OIL. BUT IT IS HURTING US SO BADLY THAT
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WE HOPE THERE COULD BE SOME FORMULA WHICH WOULD GIVE THEM THEIR

DUE WHILE AT THE SAME TIME LOWERING OIL PRICES.

"WE ARE PARTISAN ENOUGH TO SUGGEST THAT RATHER THAN OPEC'S
SLASHING PRICES, THE TRANS-NATIONAL CORPORATIONS SHOULD AGREE
TO FOREGO SOME OF THEIR PROFITS WHICH SEEM TO INCREASE EVERY TIME
THE OIL SHEIKS CALL FOR A LITTLE
MORE TO COMBAT THE RISING PRICES
OF THE COMMODITIES THEY IMPORT.

"IN OUR CASE WE ARE STILL STUCK WITH A PITTANCE FROM REYNOLDS
WHILE THEY ARE REPORTING BILLION-DOLLAR PROFITS EVERY YEAR.
"WHAT WE ARE ASKING FOR IS LESS THAN SIX PERCENT OF WHAT ALUMINUM
INGOT IS SOLD FOR ON THE WORLD MARKET. THIS WOULD FIRST OF ALL CUT
OUT THE FIDDLING OF THE BOOKS TO SHOW THE COMPANY MAKES LITTLE
PROFITS HERE WHILE PILING THEM UP AT THE OTHER END. SECONDLY, WE
TOO HAVE OUR OIL PROBLEMS AND EVEN
WITH THE BAUXITE LEVY WE WILL
BARELY BE ABLE TO MAKE ENDS MEET FINANCIALLY.

"HOWEVER, IT IS GOOD THAT PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY-OF-STATE
HENRY KISSINGER HAVE RAISED
THE ISSUE IN THE HIGHEST FORUM OF THE
WORLD. THERE HAS BEEN TOO MUCH HYPOCRISY ABOUT HUNGR AND STAR-
VATION FACINOITHE WORLD WHILE FEW PROGRESSIVE COUNTRIES ARE
WILLING TO DO ANYTHING CONSTRUCTIVE ABOUT THE SITUATION. FOR
YEARS THE POOR NATIONS OF THE WORLD HAVE BEEN COMPLAINING THAT THEY
HAVE BEEN FORCED TO SELL THEIR RAW MATERIALS CHEAPLY WHILE HAVING
TO PAY HIGH PRICES FOR IMPORTS FROM THE INDUSTRIALISED WORLD.
NOW THE TABLES ARE TURNED. THE OPEC OIL CLUB WAS THE FIRST MOVE BY
UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO SHOW THAT THEY TOO CAN 'PLAY THE GAME.'

"WE ARE NOT HAPPY AT THE TURN OF EVENTS WHICH IS PLUNGING THE WORLD
TOWARDS ECONOMIC CHAOS. BUT IF OPEC AND SIMILAR DEFENSIVE THIRD
WORLD ORGANIZATIONS SERVE TO POINT UP THE DANGERS INVOLVED, THEIR
MOVES WILL HAVE ACHIEVED THEIR PURPOSE.

"ALL THAT WE ASK IS THAT THE INDUSTRIALISED AND PRORESSIVE
COUNTRIES RECOGNISE THIS. WE DO NOT CLAIM THE RIGHT TO CHALLENGE
THEM FOR THEIR WEALTH AND PROGRESS. BUT WE DO CLAIM DUR SOVEREIGN
RIGHT TO SEEK
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OUR OWN PROGRESS BY DINT OF OUR OWN EFFORTS AND
BY EXPLOITING
OUR OWN RESOURCES FORSOME BENEFIT OF OURSELVES.

"IN SHORT WE CLAIM THE RIGHT TO BE GIVEN A FAIR CHANCE TO LIVE". V
ITEM.
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